

*Historical houses***WADSWORTH FIRE****COLONIAL LANDMARK
BURNED AT DUXBURY****Women Rescued From the
Wadsworth House, but Valuable
Relics and Bonds
Are Consumed by Flames**

(These were the heads on a special dispatch to the *Boston Herald* dated April 23, 1904, which follows: -- Ed.)

"Duxbury lost one of its finest houses last night when the ancestral home of the Wadsworth family on Washington St. was burned. Nothing but 4 brick walls stand this morning to remind one of the colonial homestead of yesterday.

"At 10:30 last night Wyman

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Lincoln, a conductor on the New York, New Haven & Hartford, was returning home when he saw a small tongue of fire licking the shingles on the extension of the house and summoned neighbors. Flames soon burst through the roof and made rapid inroads on the main body of the house. Being short of buckets, ladders and even water, the fire fighters turned to saving household effects.

"Meantime the occupants of the house, Mrs. Alexander Wadsworth, her niece, Mrs. Drew, and the housekeeper, were awakened, and Mrs. Wadsworth, who is over 70 years old, was carried from the building by William Facey (Mr. Facey lived with his wife on Surplus St. -- Ed.) Mrs. Drew had in a trunk in her room a bank book and several thousand dollars' worth of bonds, and although Facey made great efforts to save these, he was beaten back by the fire and they were lost.

The Wadsworth house was built in 1798 by Capt. Amos Brown, and was one of the oldest colonial houses of Duxbury. The walls were of brick brought from England by Capt. Brown as ballast for his ship. Capt. Wadsworth, who died at the age of 92 some 3 years ago, and who was a descendant of Capt. Brown, was engaged in the China and East India trade for many years, and the house contained a large collection of valuable relics and bric-a-brac which can never be replaced, and a larger portion of which was a complete loss.

"For some years there has been a mild agitation in Duxbury looking to the establishment of a volunteer fire department, and it is hoped that this loss will be a spur to greater effort toward its establishment. There is no apparatus of any kind, and it is thought an article will be inserted in the next town warrant to provide a service."